

Yorktown Crier

Poquoson Post



June 20th-26th, 2019

The free press where America won its freedom

Vol. XXXVIII No. 24

IN BRIEF

Happy Summer Solstice!
Friday, June 21, 11:54 AM

Peninsula SPCA Presents Art for Animals
Join fellow animal lovers for Light hors d'oeuvres and seafood, Beer, Wine, Mimosas & Bloody Marys Silent Auction featuring works from local artists AND one-of-a-kind artwork created by Peninsula SPCA Shelter Pets
Sunday, June 23
2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Hampton Yacht Club
4707 Victoria Blvd.,
Hampton, VA 23669

French Wine Study & Tasting
No Experience Necessary
Mobjack Bay
FRI 6/21
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Potluck Picnic and Contra Dancing
Under the Tent
Watermen's Museum
SUN 6/23
5:00 - 9:30 p.m.

Show and Shine to Cure Parkinson's
Sunday June 23
12 PM - 4 PM
Williamsburg Antique Mall,
500 Lightfoot Road,
Williamsburg, VA 23188 .
Donations accepted to Support the American Parkinson's Disease Foundation (APDA)

Red Cross Blood Donation Opportunities

Emmaus Baptist Church
814 Yorktown Road
Poquoson, VA 23662
06/21/2019
02:00 PM - 07:00 PM

"He who is without a newspaper is cut off from his species"
-P.T. Barnum-
Happy National Columnists Day!!! Sunday, June 23rd

Tabb Wins Big in KidWind Competition

By Nancy E. Sheppard
Yorktown Crier-Poquoson Post

TABB - Students from Tabb Middle School placed first in the National KidWind Challenge held in Houston (Texas) on May 21 - 23, 2019 during the American Wind Energy Association (AWEA) Trade Show.

The KidWind Project, developed in 2013, seeks to engage students in learning more about wind power by developing and testing their own wind turbines. The national competition brings together students from all over the United States (who placed regionally) to display their own creative solutions for wind energy.

The Tabb Middle School team, named "Gone with the Wind," was comprised of Katelyn Wiltz, Alice Fang, Jacoby Melton, and Kyle Ray. Under the expert guidance of high school mentor, Daniel Taminger, coached by Tracy Buckley, and with the support of a volunteer NASA engineer, placed second in the regional competition held in Virginia Beach, and went on to compete at Nationals in Houston.

The students are judged on several different components:

ON THE INSIDE

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By Nancy E. Sheppard
Yorktown Crier-Poquoson Post

POQUOSON - Just after 2:00 a.m. on June 12, 2019, Poquoson residents were left in disbelief as they looked out their windows and saw Surf Rider, a seafood restaurant located at 103 Rens Road, engulfed in flames. Poquoson resident Jeff Grizzard was the first to call 9-1-1 when he saw the fire break out. Witnesses in the homes and boats located adjacent to the restaurant's property described being awoken by the sounds of sirens coming down the roadway towards the restaurant. One resident said, "I saw just some smoke coming from over the kitchen and then BOOM!" Another resident described the explosion out of the right side of the building as sounding like "Woosh!" The fire

consumed the building, particularly where the kitchen and new outdoor patio were located.

Fire departments from Poquoson, Langley Air Force Base, York County, and the City of Hampton, were quick to respond and fought for hours to put out the flames. The restaurant owners and many of the employees gathered before dawn to watch the place that they described as their "second home" burn to the ground. The ownership of Whitehouse Cove Marina, which sits next to the restaurant, were also on the scene, and did what they could to save the boats that were docked directly next to the restaurant. With the fire tempering to smoke and ash by later in the morning, all that was left was the burnt husk of what used to be Surf Rider.

At approximately 9:30

a.m., one of the restaurant's cooks arrived for work, unaware that the fire had taken place. He stared at the building with a stunned expression and asked those who stood on the periphery of the property what happened. The owner of Whitehouse Cove Marina lent him a cell phone to call the owner of Surf Rider, who promised that he would have a job at one of the group's other restaurants. Even at 10:00 a.m., fire crews were still battling small spots in the wreckage of what was the beloved gathering place.

Surf Rider had become a beloved gathering spot for residents in and around Poquoson. With its unparalleled views, delicious food, homey atmosphere, and incredible staff, there was no better place to be. Kelli Forrest reminisced over going to the

restaurant with family and friends on balmy summer evenings to listen to live music. Robin and Jim Miller of Smithfield talk about having just discovered this location and happily taking the jaunt from Isle of Wight County to Poquoson for all of the things that made this restaurant wonderful. Poquoson residents, Pam and David Freeman, described eating at the restaurant several times a week.

Manager Brandi Timmons described the bond they share: "Surf Rider Restaurant Group is not just a business, it's a family." The Freemans' son had his first job there while in high school. He started as a dishwasher and worked his way up to being a cook.

Continued on Page 2 "Surf Rider"

Beloved Poquoson Restaurant Burns



Surf Rider Poquoson on the morning of Wednesday June 12

Joint Base Langley-Eustis Welcomes New Commanders

Submitted by Nicholas De La Pena
633rd Air Base Wing

JOINT BASE LANGLEY-EUSTIS - Joint Base Langley-Eustis will hold change of command ceremonies for both the 633rd Air Base Wing and 1st Fighter Wing commanders at Langley Air Force Base, June 20-21, 2019.

U.S. Air Force Col. Clinton Ross will assume command of the 633rd Air Base Wing from Col. Sean Tyler at 9:33 a.m., June 20 and Col. David Lopez will assume command of the 1st Fighter Wing from Col. Jason Hinds at 9:30 a.m., June 21.

Ross will command three groups that provide installation support to more than 18,000 Air Force and Army personnel, including Headquarters Air Combat Command, U.S. Army Training and Doctrine Command, four operational wings, four brigades and more than 20 major associated units.

He previously served at Langley AFB from 2017 - 2019 as the Director of Manpower, Personnel & Services, Headquarters Air Combat Command, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

The 1st FW is Air Combat Commands' premier air-dominance wing with Lopez leading

two groups and six squadrons consisting of more than 1,300 Airmen. He is responsible for the worldwide rapid deployment and employment of the Air Force's largest operational unit of the world's most capable fighter, the F-22 Raptor.

Lopez also previously served at Langley AFB from 2018-2019 as the Commander of the 1st Operations Group, 1st Fighter Wing, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. The 1st Operations Group is comprised of two combat F-22 squadrons, a T-38 fighter training squadron, and an operations support squadron. The 1st Operations Group provides combat ready F-22 airpower to the Combatant Commanders

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Summer is in full swing at the Virginia Living Museum in Newport News. Get set for a shark summer at the Virginia Living Museum with Shark Zone through Sept. 2. Featuring galleries, live saltwater tanks, shark cages, and lots of activities for kids.

The proud Orange, Black, and White of the Tabb Tigers made their way to state championship game in Salem to take on the Flying Flucos of Fluvanna High School. Despite the unfortunate result, Tabb fans take note and check out John Hamilton's sports report!